Statement

Schemes of AIR and Doordarshan approved by EFC

SI. No	Scheme	Approved cost (Rs. in crores)	Exp. Incurred during 2002-03 (Rs. in
	DOORDARSHAN		
1.	Cable head ends in 160 villages	7.15	7.12
2.	Upgradation of 5 HPTs	22.7	9.73
3.	Satellite earth stations at Aizwal and Shillong	15.02	7.84
4.	Satellite video phones	1.65	1.81
	ALL INDIA RADIO		
1.	10 KW FM Tr. & stereo studio facilities at Itanagar.	6.10	1.85
2.	Upgradation of existing uplink facilities at Itanagar.		
3.	Upgradation of existing uplink facilities at Guwahati.	6.00	3.05
4.	Upgradation of existing uplink facilities at Shillong.		
5.	10 KW FM Tr. & stereo studio facilities at Kohima.	6.10	0.12
6.	10 KW FM Tr. & stereo studio facilities at Port Blair.	6.60	1.74

63 cable head ends have already been commissioned. Satellite videophones have been procured and are in use. The remaining projects are at different stages of implementation and are expected to be completed by end of 2003-04. Full package is yet to be approved by the competent authority.

Telugu TV serials

820. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any information has been received on the depicition of witchcraft blackmailing and various illegal activities as normal in some of the Telugu serials;

(b) if not, whether Government propose to arrange for a survey of such trends, if any, in the Telugu TV serials; and

(c) the action taken so far to curb this practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan Kendra Hyderabad has not telecast any serial which promotes superstition or invokes dogmas or promotes social evils. It is also not telecasting any serial or programme which has either witchcraft, blackmailing or other illegal activities.

So far as private channels are concerned, no such incidence has been brought to the notice of the Government.

Programmes of all TV Channels, transmitted/retransmitted through the Cable Network are required to adhere to the Programme Code prescribed under the Cable TV Network Regulation Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder. The Programme Code, *Inter-alia,* prohibits carriage of programmes which encourage superstition or blind belief. Central Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee to look into the violations of the Programmes Code. Authorised Officers are also empowered under the Act to take action for violation of the Programme Code.

Implementation of CAS in Metropolitan Cities

821. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION **AND** BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to implement CAS in the metropolitan cities with effect from the 14th July, 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof and how general public is likely to be benefited by this;

(c) the steps taken to ensure that viewers are not exploited by the Cable Operators; and

(d) the expected Government earnings by this system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Government had earlier decided to implement CAS in metropolitan cities *w.e.fl* 5.7.2003. After monitoring the preparedness of stakeholders to introduce addressability and after extensive discussions with various stakeholders, namely Broadcasters, Multi System Operators, Cable